

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 023886

R 241545Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8624

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 3080

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM CHARGE'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RQ, TD, XL, US

SUBJECT: TRINIDADIAN INITIATIVE ON PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 300196

1. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS RECEIVED ME IN A RELAXED MOOD ALONE AT HIS RESIDENCE DEC 23. HE TOLD ME HE WAS STAYING AWAY FROM THE OFFICE AND OFFICIAL COMMITMENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE THIS CHRISTMAS WEEK. HE WAS SURROUNDED BY HIS RESEARCH NOTES AND THE BOOKS AND PAPERS ON RUSSIAN AND SOVIET ATTITUDES TOWARDS RACE AND AFRICA WHICH WITH TIMELY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE OF DEPARTMENT I HAD EARLIER BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE TO HIM IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST. THAT WAS MOST USEFUL AND MY THANKS GO TO THOSE WHO BURROWED INTO HISTORY ON BEHALF OF IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH T&T PRIME MINISTER.

2. I CONVEYED RESPONSE OF GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO TO PROPOSED EXPLORATORY TALKS (REFTEL) AND WILLIAMS WAS MOST PLEASED. SINCE WE ARE NOW INTO THE HOLIDAY PERIOD HE IS THINKING IN TERMS OF JANUARY AND
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INDICATED THAT HE WILL PROMPTLY PROVIDE ME WITH A

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL REGARDING A DATE AND VENUE.

3. I EMPHASIZED GOVERNOR COLON'S PREFERENCE FOR HOLDING TALKS IN SAN JUAN AS EARLIER SUGGESTED BY WILLIAMS, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHETHER GOVERNOR HIMSELF WOULD INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IF SAN JUAN WAS THE SITE. IF THERE IS AN ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW. WILLIAMS HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED THAT HE PREFERS THESE FIRST INFORMAL EXPLORATORY TALKS TO BE UNPUBLICIZED AND HE SUGGESTED THAT TOBAGO MIGHT BE AN IDEAL QUIET SPOT FOR SUCH TALKS. THAT IS NOT REPEAT NOT A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL AT THIS STATE, HOWEVER.

4. IN ANY CASE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WOULD WISH HIS SENIOR CABINET MINISTER, ERROL MAHABIR (INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, AND PETROLEUM AND MINES), AND MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH TO BE HIS REPRESENTATIVES. HE ENVISAGES NO MORE THAN FOUR OR FIVE PERSONS TOTAL ON EACH SIDE.

5. WILLIAMS DEFINITELY AFFIRMED THAT HE WOULD ALSO PROVIDE MORE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL CARICOM LINKAGES WHICH MIGHT BE DISCUSSED, IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE FRUITFULNESS OF THE PROJECTED MEETING.

6. OTHER SUBJECTS REPORTED SEPTELS.
RICH

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